

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 132
By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Dana Ferguson on her selection as Teacher of the Year at West View Middle School.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Dana Ferguson is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Dana Ferguson has recently been selected by her colleagues as Teacher of the Year at West View Middle School, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, after completing her Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Tennessee with high honors, Ms. Ferguson also completed graduate hours from both the University of Tennessee and East Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, a Tennessee Career Ladder Level III teacher, Ms. Ferguson has served with acumen and alacrity as a Special Education extended resource teacher at West View where she has been a member of the staff since 1979; previous to coming to West View, she taught in Anderson County for four years; and

WHEREAS, always striving to share her knowledge and expertise, Ms. Ferguson, an active member of ARC of Hamblen County, participates in Area 5 and Area 10 Special Olympics, has conducted Special Olympics workshops for gymnastics and bowling competitions, and has volunteered for the Area 1 Celebrity Golf Tournament; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the faculty at West View, Ms. Ferguson was named ARC Teacher of the Year for 1992 as well as Middle School Teacher of the Year for

2000; she also gained \$37,500 for local charities as a winner of the Newman's Own Contest and

WHEREAS, Dana Ferguson has been an integral part of the Hamblen County educational system and holds professional memberships in the National, Tennessee, and Hamblen County Educational Associations; and

WHEREAS, Dana Ferguson is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, an dynamic member of her community, Ms. Ferguson has involved her students in community-oriented activities, thereby providing them opportunities to give back to their communities; most recently, her class received a grant for outdoor equipment from Howmet of Morristown; and

WHEREAS, Dana Ferguson truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Dana Ferguson truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Dana Ferguson, a highly talented and compassionate educator, on being chosen as Teacher of the Year at West View Middle School, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.